

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-4-02

January 29, 2002

The following is offered in response to your letter to me in which you seek a formal interpretation of Article 705-22, item #1 of the 1999 National Electrical Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question: Does the 1999 National Electrical Code allow the required disconnecting devices for interconnected electric power production sources to be located inside a building that is normally locked?

Answer: No. Item (1) of Article 705-22 of the 1999 National Electrical Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code requires that the disconnect be "located where accessible." The definition of "accessible (as applied to equipment)", as found in the NEC, specifically requires that the equipment be "not guarded by locked doors." This means that the disconnect cannot be located within a building that is normally locked. Article 110-26 states that "Enclosures housing electrical apparatus that are controlled by lock and key shall be considered accessible to qualified persons." The disconnect could therefore be located in a locked, approved electrical enclosure on the outside of the building, but the disconnect cannot be located in the building if the building is to be normally locked.